

Group I. Claims 1-5, drawn to a protein, classified in Class 530, subclass 350.

Group II. Claims 6-15, drawn to a method of stimulating proliferation of pancreatic islet cells, classified in Class 514, subclass 2.

In response to the Office Action dated May 8, 2001, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-5.

Consideration of the application and its allowance are requested. If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 442-6672.

Respectfully Submitted,



Deborah A. Sawislak  
Registration No. 37,438

Enclosures:

Petition and Fee for Extension of Time (in duplicate)  
Amendment Transmittal Form (in duplicate)  
Postcard